



REFERENCE:

## COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

CHIEF J. ALLAN, CHAIRMAN  
P.O. BOX 408  
PLUMMER, IDAHO 83851  
(208)686-5803 • Fax (208)686-8813  
email: [qspencer@cdatribe-nsn.gov](mailto:qspencer@cdatribe-nsn.gov)

October 6, 2005

The Honorable Bryon L. Dorgan  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe Housing Authority is an essential program that ensures that there is affordable and quality housing options available for tribal members. The Housing Authority is currently operating in a regional environment that shows a double-digit percentage increase in the cost to purchase a home and population growth that is increasing at a rate faster than affordable housing can be provided. The Tribal Housing Authority struggles with inadequate funding, a low income community that may not be able to retain financing to purchase a home, elevated maintenance expenses, poor construction of 1937 Housing Act Stock, and expensive substance abuse rehabilitation commitments that the Housing Authority is absorbing.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe) **has** an increased population of tribal members that have become educated at institutions of higher education and have chosen to return to the reservation to pursue professional careers. This group of educated professionals and middle-income earners do not have an available housing market should they choose to purchase a home on **the** reservation. Any federal legislation should factor in programs that would allow the Tribe flexibility in constructing housing options that would allow educated tribal professionals and middle income earners the option **of** purchasing housing on the reservation.

The Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (TTHUD) appropriations bill, known **as** H.R. 3058, would provide level funding for the Native American Housing Block Grant at fiscal year 2005 funding amount **of** \$622 million. It would also separate funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICBG) at \$69 million. The Tribe supports language that would retain level funding for Native housing programs.

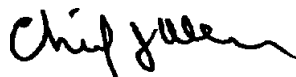
The NAHASDA inadvertently omitted language permitting NAHASDA funds to be used **as** a match with low-income Housing Tax Credit funds. Presently, IDHE's must have proceeds from sales to subsidize this tax credit project. The drawback is that CDTHA does not have sufficient revenue generated from sales due to the low-income of its constituents. The Tribe supports the flexible option to have NAHASDA funds to be used **to** supplement and subsidize some of the Housing Tax Credit.

The Tribe supports the development of an Interdepartmental Agreement, which sets forth the guidelines by which HUD, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Indian Health Service will coordinate their efforts in the delivery of services and financial assistance to Tribes and TDHEs in order to avoid the duplication of effort and promote cost efficiency. There is no reason for each of the three agencies to conduct their own separate environmental reviews and assessments of projects when it is the same project. The Tribe believes that this funding can be better spent on projects such as repair and winterization activities.

The Tribe supports modification of the **30%** ceiling requirement so that rental rates can be structured to allow for a minimum rent or a less bureaucratic flat rent. The present system does not allow for a rent structure that would permit the TDHE to break even without the use of NAHASDA dollars. It also undermines the effort to encourage families to seek and maintain employment. The CDTHA could not build a development with **NAHASDA** funds that would attract mixed incomes because the **30%** rule combined with the low-income requirement forces the CDTHA to construct low-income housing.

The Tribe is seeking your support in placing some of these issues on the table of discussion at the next Committee on Indian Affairs hearing that seeks to address Indian housing issues. I **look** forward to working with you as we look for innovative ways to address Indian housing issues. Should you need to contact me or require additional information, please contact the legislative director, Quanah Spencer, by telephone at **(208) 686-0803** or by e-mail at [qspencer@cdatribe-nsn.gov](mailto:qspencer@cdatribe-nsn.gov). Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief J. Allan", with a stylized, flowing script.

Chief J. Allan, Chairman  
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Cja:qms